

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Prayer in the Church—WEEK 2

Before you Begin:

Set table with a religious article (a crucifix, statue of Jesus or Mary, and/or a candle are examples). Be prepared with Bible, Catechism, Children's Folders (Textbook and Assignments), and supplies of pencil, or pen.

Start with Family Prayer

Take a few minutes of quiet time to think about where you see God working in your life. Also, this is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. On your Advent wreath light all four candles this week.

Here is the list and descriptions of the five different forms of prayer.

Blessing and Adoration is our response to God. God blesses us first. In return we bless and praise God, and give an act of glory to God who created us.

Petition is asking God for help and forgiveness.

Intercession is asking God's help on behalf of another person or group.

Thanksgiving is giving thanks to God for all He has done for us.

Praise is saying that we love God—not because He did something for us—just because He is God!

Discussion with your Family:

Which of the forms of prayer do you use most often?

During the joyous Advent and Christmas season think of someone who you could pray for and include them in your morning prayers (a prayer of intercession).

Make a top-ten list of the things you are most thankful for and then include this list in your bedtime prayers (a prayer of thanksgiving).

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

Saint Bridget of Sweden

Feast Day: July 23

The gift of mystical prayer, an experience of a special union with God in love, was given to Bridget. She often had visions of Christ's passion. However, Bridget was also very practical in living out the Gospel.

Bridget was born in 1303 into the family of a wealthy landowner in Sweden. She became a very good wife and mother. One of her eight children, Catherine of Sweden, was canonized. Once Bridget was invited to be the queen's chief lady-in-waiting. She lived at the court for two years and encouraged the queen and king to live holy lives. After her husband's death, Bridget founded an order of nuns known as the Bridgetines, who contributed to the culture of Scandinavia. She showed loving concern for people who were poor and sick, and many people came to her for help. Bridget made pilgrimages around Italy and even to the Holy Land. She spent her last years in Rome. She urged the pope to leave Avignon in France and return to Rome. Bridget died in Rome in 1373.



<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-bridget-of-sweden>

GOSPEL READING
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/121816.cfm>

Family Connection

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-advent-cycle-a-sunday-connection>